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**Guidelines issued by the Chairperson
pursuant to section 65(3) of the *Immigration Act***

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The Issue

Claims made by civilian non-combatants fearing return to situations of civil war come before the Refugee Division on a regular basis. These Guidelines address the particular difficulties raised in such claims. In claims involving situations of civil war, as in all other refugee claims, the claimants must satisfy all of the elements of the statutory definition of Convention refugee.

1 A major difficulty encountered in analyzing these claims is determining whether or not a linkage exists between the persecution feared and one or more of the Convention grounds.

The Refugee Division, in interpreting the definition of Convention refugee, has determined in many cases that civilian non-combatants fearing return to situations of civil war are included